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Jan. 28, 2000
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NEWS RELEASE

EAGLE SCOUTS START NEW FRATERNITY ON UD CAMPUS; ORGANIZATION TO HOST LOCAL SCOUTS FOR MERIT BADGE COLLEGE

DAYTON, Ohio — A prerequisite for membership in the newest fraternity at the University of Dayton is to have something in common with presidential candidate Bill Bradley, movie producer Steven Spielberg and Apollo astronaut James A. Lovell Jr.

The 11 members of Epsilon Tau Pi special interest fraternity all share at least one thing with these men. They have earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America — something only 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts ever achieve.

Last year, Michael Mahon, a junior pre-physical therapy major from Atlanta, Ga., decided that he missed being involved in an organization that reflected the scouting ideals of "honor, courage and loyalty." Although Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity, exists on the UD campus, Mahon decided to start an organization that was focused on Scouting.

He found eight fellow Scouts to join the charter class, and three more pledged the fraternity during the past semester. The fraternity members plan to move into a University-owned house, located at 1915 Trinity Ave., this summer.

John Dalrymple, director of advancement at the national Boy Scouts of America office, said he is not aware of any other Eagle Scout fraternities in the nation.

Epsilon Tau Pi will host the first of three sessions of a Merit Badge College from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 5, for about 150 Boy Scouts from 25 local troops. The Scouts will have the chance to earn three merit badges in about 23 different areas such as chemistry, citizenship, electronics, emergency preparedness, fingerprinting, first aid and safety. Scouts are required to earn 21 merit badges to reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

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University of Dayton students and members of the faculty and staff will serve as counselors for the merit badge projects. For example, John Delamer, director of public safety at UD, will lead the finger printing and safety badges. Len Roberts, executive assistant and chief of operations in the provost office and adviser to the fraternity, will lead the citizenship in the community badge. Richard Kee, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, will lead the electronics badge. The next sessions of the Merit Badge College will be held on Saturday, March 4, and Saturday, April 1.

Jeff McCluskey, a fifth-year senior civil engineering major from Zanesville, Ohio, is organizing the Merit Badge College event. Despite being the oldest member, McCluskey said he was interested in getting involved in the fraternity because he knew he could participate in the development of the fraternity from its start: "I wanted to get back to some of the goals of Scouting and give something back." McCluskey said the fraternity's primary goal is to help promote other Scouts in achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Roberts, who served as president of the local Boy Scouts council for three years and currently serves on the regional committee, said the area Boy Scouts organizers are "extremely excited and supportive" of the fraternity. He said there is also interest in starting similar fraternities at other colleges and universities.

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For media interviews, call **Michael Mahon** at (937) 285-8899 or e-mail mahonmia@notes.udayton.edu. Call **Jeff McCluskey** at (937) 285-8267 or e-mail mcclusjd@flyernet.udayton.edu. Call **Len Roberts** at (937) 229-2245 or e-mail roberts@picard.admin.udayton.edu. Call **John Dalrymple** at the national Boy Scouts of America office in Irving, Texas, at (972) 580-2032.